



Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

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Senate 2750

The Health and Human Services Committee

State House – Room 212

March 1, 2006

The Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is known as a one-stop resource center on Deaf and Hard of Hearing issues. We deal with all deaf and hard of hearing individuals' needs every day whether they need resources, referrals, and training. Providing the Interpreter Referral Service in RI is one of our legislative mandates.

Our challenge so far in the Interpreter Referral Service is to fill in the requests. The requests for the assignments are increasing which is good but sometimes, not always, we experience difficulty to fill in the request because we do not have enough licensed interpreters in RI.

The Licensure program for the interpreters is not a problem and it is not what this bill is about but the process itself of how the interpreter obtains the license in interpreting is a problem. Many out-of-state and unlicensed certified interpreters are often available to work in RI but they are unable to complete paperwork because the paperwork requires a lot of information and time. Most of them are unnecessary and/or irrelevant and are keeping interpreters prolonging to complete the paperwork.

If the bill was passed, it would streamline the process to make it simpler and quicker for the interpreters who wants to apply for license and they are still required to meet the criteria of qualification and regulations promulgated by the department. This would help increasing better chance for our Interpreter Referral Service to locate interpreters to fill in the requests.

In conclusion, on behalf of the RI CDHH, we support this bill.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more resources that would help you to make a better decision. I can be reached by e-mail, SFLORIO@CDHH.RI.GOV.

Honorably Submitted by:

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